

## **ABSTRACT**

A device for a motor vehicle is disclosed that affords occupant protection during the impact of energy directed laterally against a motor vehicle door (6) as a result of a collision, the device having a connecting structure (7) comprising at least two parts, a first part and a second part of which the first part (T1) is firmly connected to the motor vehicle door (6) and the second part (T2) is firmly connected to an energy-absorbing area of the motor vehicle body (5) located in the interior of the motor vehicle (1) and the two parts can be brought to enter an active connection via at least one common joining section (F) for selective diversion of at least a part of the impact energy acting laterally on the motor vehicle door (6) into the area of the body of the motor vehicle (5). The first and/or second part (T1, T2), due to energy input to a transformable material, a change in mechanical state in particular in the form of a change in shape due to which the two parts are made to adjoin and interlock.